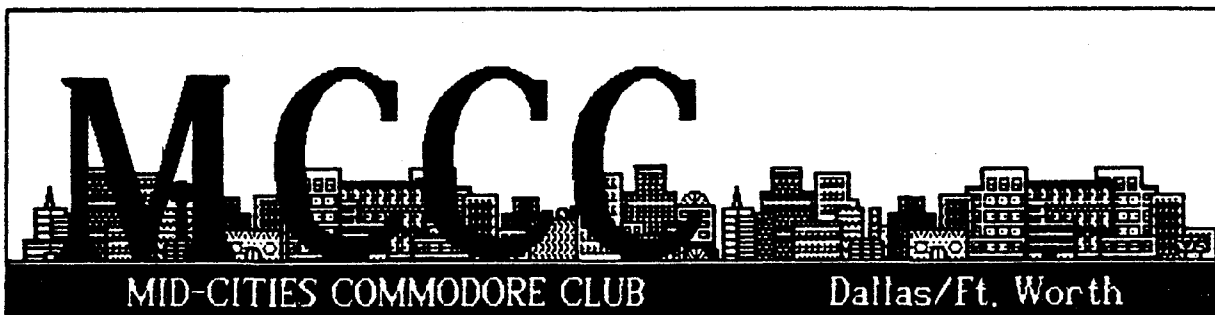




MCCC NEWS

MARCH, 1988

ISSUE 3

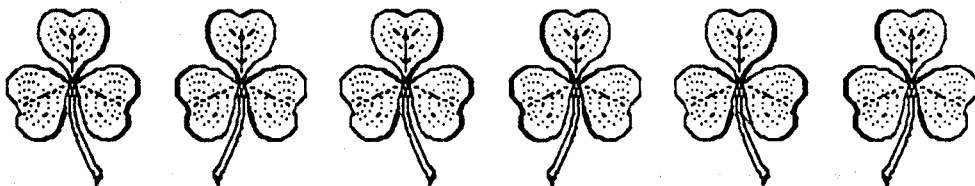
Nine Reasons Why I Don't Submit Articles to Our Newsletter

(Borrowed from the newsletter of the Commodore Users of Bartlesville, who borrowed it from the Commodore Users Group of St. Louis with their editorial comments)

1. 2. I've found a way to use my computer without software. (All of us would like to know more about this feature.) 3. There isn't anything worth talking about. (So tell us how bad it really is so we won't buy it!) 4. I am a spy and must remain anonymous. (Many writers feel this way. Use a pen name.) 5. I can't spell. (eye hav uh spel chukr noe probs.) 6. My computer's in a closet somewhere. (Advertise it.) 7. I don't know how to use a word processor. (Any medium is acceptable - disk/tape, napkins/toilet paper, or talk it to the editor over the phone.) 8. I've never seen the club address and don't know where to send articles. (Okay, you don't read this rag, do you? How did you find out about CUB anyway?) 9. I am illiterate. (Read #7 and #8, will you?)

(If you're wondering what happened to reason #1, it wasn't forgotten; could it be good enough to stop you from submitting an article?)

EDITOR'S NOTE: For the MCCC newsletter, get your articles to Vanessa Bennett or Cheryl Howard by the 3rd Saturday of the month. Articles can be sent via Startext or the ASCII board to Vanessa or if you have typed an article with your favorite word processor, be sure to save it as a sequential file. DO NOT put in any format commands. You can then give the disk to Cheryl at the HEB Chapter Meetings. REMEMBER--No format commands and the article must be in sequential file form.



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Garry Wordelman
and Bruce Nelson
co- founders of the MCCC
salute the *Newsletter*
on its fifth anniversary

GET RICH!
Cheryl Howard, MCCC

This FINANCIAL STRATEGIES program by Arrays, Inc./Continental Software is available in several sets or modules dealing with basic financial planning, real estate, and insurance planning. Each module is sold separately and Module 1-FINANCIAL STRATEGIES is available at Federated in Hurst.

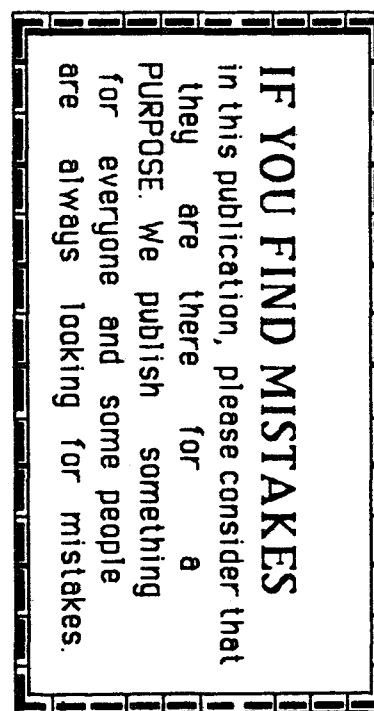
A basic C=64 set-up is required with two disk drives being recommended, to cut down on the disk swapping time between the program disk and your data disk. A printer is nice, but optional. The program disk uses both sides of the disk, with the main menu, utility programs, demonstration program, printing programs and the forms on Side A. Side B contains the graphics programs and graphics data.

The program is completely menu-driven and supports most of the current printers on the market. The authors of GET RICH! advise the user to study both the program guide and the financial strategies booklet that come with the program, which contains a number of worksheets to help you organize your assets, investments, and liabilities to help you set goals and determine both your net worth and discretionary income.

The CALCULATIONS part of the program will allow you to solve problems involving money, time, and interest. When you have completed all this, the GRAPHS will help you easily analyze the performance of your money over a given period of time. Finally, you have the

option to print out various forms and graphs containing the information you have entered into the program. This option allows you to print one form at a time, all the forms at the same time, as well as printing itemizations.

Unfortunately, I did not have sufficient time to spend with this program due to previous commitments, however, after reading the enclosed booklets and viewing the demonstration program, I was impressed with the program as a whole. Serious financial planning can be successfully done with this program if you utilize the suggestions and take the time to gather your information needed to sit down and plan your financial future. While no program can completely take the place of a qualified financial consultant, this program will certainly do an adequate job.



COMPUTER CRAYONS

Cheryl Howard, MCCC

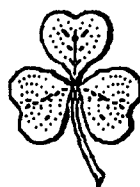
This program by Playground Software, available at Federated for \$25.88, is a very nice electronic coloring book for kids of all ages, including those adults who sometimes like to pretend they are a kid again. Computer Crayons comes complete with ready-to-paint scenes and a palette of vibrant colors. You also have the options of saving your masterpieces and restoring your picture quite easily, as well as the ability to adjust your brush size and erase your mistakes.

The visual menus which appear on the screen are all symbols which even the youngest child can relate to. Control of the cursor (or in this program, a black crayon) is done with a joystick or an EDUMATE LIGHT PEN. Pictures are accessed by the use of the LETTERS symbol and the LITTLE HOUSE symbol. When you find the letter of the alphabet you like, move your black crayon to the LITTLE HOUSE symbol and press the button on your joystick. A picture, corresponding to the letter selected will appear. Now it is just a matter of moving your black crayon over to the AAROW symbol and pressing your joystick button to bring up the palette of colors. Select your favorite color by again moving your crayon to the desired color and pressing the button. Move up to the desired location to color, hold down the joystick button and move your joystick lever to color on the screen.

After you have completed your picture, you can activate the RUNNING MAN

symbol to animate your picture. This can be done at any time the picture is on the screen. You may also change the color selection by touching the BOX OF CRAYONS symbol. Kids, with their vivid imaginations, will probably want to color the picture in one set of colors, then touch this symbol to completely change the colors.

This program is not only fun but educational as well as children can associate the pictures with the letters of the alphabet, as well as learn what colors look good together.

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FLEX FILE 128

Clem Countess, MCCC

Flex File is an advanced database program for the C128. It is a rewritten version of Practifile 64, also known as Flex File 64. The C128 version is similar to those programs in appearance and operation but is greatly improved and expanded.

Flex File is self-booting in 40 or 80 column on either the 1541 or 1571 drives, and can be configured for single or dual drives. There is also a C64 version on this same disk.

This new program is an outstanding example of programming that is designed to use the increased speed, expanded memory capacity, and increased disk storage of the C128 system. Flex File 128 is very similar to Practifile in purpose, appearance, and user handling; anyone having used the older program will be able to jump into the new one

without even looking at the docs. The C64 files are also transferable to the C128 version. There are some readily obvious differences, though, like much faster loading and a Directory command to the main menu. When operating with only one disk drive, Practifile could wear you out swapping the program and data disks. Flex File 128 eliminates this problem by loading the entire program into memory, then swapping to the data disk only once for the remainder of the session. However, the new program does support two drives beautifully.

Based on my limited use of Superbase 64, I suspect that Flex File 128 is not as broad or powerful as that program, but it isn't necessary to take a six-week course to learn to use it. I think the primary application areas for Flex File address books, mailing lists, organization membership rosters, etc. It will permit you to sort your data on any of three preselected key fields such as alpha sort by lastname/firstname, or by zipcode for bulk mailing. Criteria can be defined to select the records to be printed: just follow the menu prompts to be guided through with no confusion. It is also easy to design and organize a printed report or address labels.

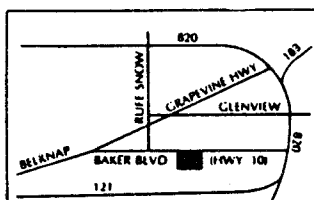
A file created with Flex File 128 can have up to 40 fields and 254 characters. With a 1571 drive, a file can contain as many as 8,000 records of 31 or fewer characters (such as names and phone numbers), or 1,100 records in a file of 254 characters each. Cut these numbers in half if you are using a 1541 drive.
(Cont. p.6)

the inkery.

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FLEX FILE Cont.

3A new feature added to Flex File 128 is a user option that allows creation of reports in a nonsymmetrical format, such as invoices or sales tickets. This sounds good, but the documentation in this area is lacking and the option is difficult to use.

I have created a number of files with Practifile and am glad to say that all of my C64 data files can be run and printed with the Flex File 128 program. Also, the Flex File 128 data can be handled by the Flex File 64 program, allowing flexibility in sharing data files.

Barbarian

Larry Vance Catalina Commodore
Computer Club

Can you become Hegor the Barbarian? Are you the warrior who can enter the fearful realms of the underground world of Durgan, a world terrorized by the evil Necron? Your quest is to destroy the lair of the accursed Necron. Your prize is the kingdom's crown. Your task is awesome! You must live on your wits, conquer your innermost fears, use every skill and weapon available to you. Hideous perils await. Can you survive?

This is the challenge that awaits you as you read the manual for the game, Barbarian. It sounds like quite a challenge and I have to admit that although I have been playing the game for about two weeks, I have yet to meet the challenge.

The program was created by a company called Psygnosis and is located in Liverpool, England. The art work, which includes a full color poster, is the best I have seen in any game thus far. The hideous perils that await are also the most inventive that I have tried to conquer. I guess the fact that England has a long history of dragon slayers makes them able to put forth such great images. The game player (Hegor) is controlled by either mouse or keyboard commands. The joystick could control some movement, but it is not recommended as you would have to drop it quickly to hit a few keys in order to survive. The mouse interface is very good and is achieved through a row of icons along the bottom of the screen. These icons are large enough and simple enough not - more (Y)/N/NS? ns to interfere with the rapid selections that have to be made. In fact, after you have lost approximately 100 lives, you begin to memorize the various combination of selections that you must make. I have even seen these moments in my dreams.

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Thus, as you enter the lair farther and farther, each new challenge becomes a little harder. You will have the opportunity to pick up objects as you go along and increase your choice of weapons.

I usually try to finish a game before writing a review of it, but in this case, I think that Barbarian is such a good game that perhaps some of you will try it and help me get past the swinging hammer!

All in all, I would highly recommend this game. You must have the patience to start over and over and over as there is no save feature and as with most adventures, once you complete the quest, "That's all folks!" If some of you were disappointed with Psygnosis' first release called Brataccus (released by Mindscape) This one will be a pleasant surprise. The improvements are great and the mouse movements do not hinder the play. You just have to figure which moves to make and in what order. Sounds simple until you try it!

Dark Castle
Silicon Beach Software
Barbara Cramer

I love 'run & jump' arcade games. Jumpman, Loderunner and The Castles of Dr. Creep were among my favorites. Now there is one for the Amiga, Dark Castle. Already released for the IBM, I had heard much about this game and was eagerly awaiting its arrival.

Your assignment: Overthrow the black knight but first you must safely pass through fourteen danger zones, each more treacherous than the last. To make things worse, they are each guarded by everything from flying monkeys to dragons. You have a handful (60) rocks for fending off anything that stands in your way and four extra lives for those instances when you are caught with your guard down. Bottles of elixir and extra rocks are plentifully scattered along your way. As your quest progresses you may also come upon a mace, fireballs and a magic shield to aid your cause.

My first reaction to this 2 dimensional game of tact and strategy was utter delight. The creatures are thoroughly delightful, well drawn and animated and accompanied by a humorous soundtrack. For a while, it was more fun to listen to the grunts and groans of my 'man' as he perished over and over again. Silencing the laughing little trolls was another joy which momentarily distracted (Cont. p.8)

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DARK CASTLE Cont.

me from the obvious goal. But soon I settled down to the job I had been assigned.

Mastering the keyboard and mouse control of your fighting and maneuvering - More skills will take a bit of time. While I am not a teenage arcade whiz, I am not an amateur either. I eventually managed to make it through one of the first screens - TWO hours later. With an hour more of practice and varying strategy approaches, I made it through the one of the other beginning choices. At the end of FIVE hours, I had scarcely made a dent in the solution.

I quickly learned that precision was only second to impeccable timing in mastering Dark Castle. This is not a game for the beginner. Persistence and a high tolerance of frustration is essential to the enjoyment of each screen. Not only must you return to the very beginning after each game is lost, you must constantly sit through the loading of 2 opening screens which have very little to do with your first challenge. This would not be so bad if you were given a save game feature in order to save your progress as you mastered each level. No such luck. To reach the end you must continually perfect your skill on the lower levels.

All in all, I would recommend Dark Castles to the younger set who have the time and persistence to see it to the end. I enjoyed playing the game but my frustration with failure eventually overcame my enjoyment. Born arcade gamers will love it. (Ed. Note: DARK CASTLE is available at BABBAGE'S)

DELUXE HELP FOR DELUXE PAINT II

Vikki Highfield

The Club-South News Birmingham, AL

Regardless of what the primary purpose people choose the Amiga over any other brand, many want, in some point in time, to take advantage of the fantastic graphic capabilities of this computer. To do this they purchase one of the graphic drawing programs available, usually Deluxe Paint II by Electronic Arts. Using this program to the fullest extent of its power requires a great deal of reading and referencing of the large manual provided. How many times have you tried to produce a graphic using the full features of Deluxe Paint only to find you cannot remember exactly how to do it and have to refer to the manual? Well, throw that manual away! Help has arrived!

RGB Video of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, has provided us with a program called "DeluxeHelp for Deluxe Paint II" which is in essence an online tutorial of Deluxe Paint II. DeluxeHelp for Deluxe Paint II is loaded from the internal drive with Deluxe Paint II loading on the external drive and running as a background task. It provides pull-down menus and actual real-live demonstrations of using the different applications provided in the Deluxe Paint II program. DeluxeHelp uses a form of the program journal which actually records the mouse movements the programmer used in demonstrating the different Deluxe Paint lessons and you see them on the screen exactly as if you

were sitting next to him when he did them. By swapping the screens back and forth you are provided with an instant on-line tutorial while you are actually drawing a picture with Deluxe Paint II.

If you have expanded memory of at least one megabyte DeluxeHelp's Mouse Talker voice module will explain the process as you go along. If you are just trying to learn to use Deluxe Paint this interactive tutorial allows you to learn at your own pace by watching expertly prepared lessons being demonstrated before you on an active Deluxe Paint II screen. Over 50 lessons are provided online on the DeluxeHelp disk.

Another advantage of this program is that as a registered owner you are qualified to receive free member access to their AmigaLink BBS where you can obtain a wealth of public domain Amiga Programs, plus additional Deluxe Paint II

lessons which could not fit on the absolutely packed DeluxeHelp disk. The program will run on all three of the Amigas with 512 K ram and 2 drives, however to take advantage of the MouseTalk module you must have at least one megabyte of expanded memory. This program is expertly done and reasonably price at only \$19.95. I think it would be a valuable asset to anyone who uses Deluxe Paint II.

MCCC NEWS: HEB CHAPTER
Glenn Schneider, President

Twass the night before the meeting and all through my mind, Lots of creatures were stirring to kick my behind.

The program was all set by V P Jack and Jesse, his elf, Librarian Cheryl had all the latest disks, hot off the shelf.

Treasurer Fred would be there with new disks to sell, But please tell me why does my stomach feel like hell.

A notice was put on the BBS for the meeting to be held, When that very night the modems did melt.

As the dark clouds began to gather I wanted to scream, I'll do me a favor and calm myself down with some chocolate ice cream.

Now I sit at the keyboard, a beer in my hand, It is rather doubtful my kids will see age 10.

The ice cream munchkins have struck my freezer again, They devoured it all with no respect for President Glenn.

Easyscript, Speedscript and Word Writer sit in my disk holder, But Librarian Cheryl says try "The Write Stuff", she says "Be bolder."

For tomorrow she says I must turn this report in, For those are the rules and Editor Bennett will not bend.

I feel much better as I finish this prose, I think the beer begins to tickle my nose.

The voices inside me are yelling "Write on - write on", And finish the report - on construction paper with my children's crayons.

HEB CHAPTER NEWS

Rebecca Atwell

The HEB CHAPTER met on Saturday, February 19th at the Hurst Recreation Center. Our meeting this month was even more informal than usual as our new V.P., Jack Slay opened the meeting with his usual charm. President Glenn Schneider had been detained due to business and Jack did an excellent job of filling in. After a brief discussion of what the members attending (who were mostly newcomers to MCCC) wanted to see happen within the chapter and what type of programs would be of interest, our own Okley Moss gave a very informative demonstration of the "Tax Survival Kit" which is available to all members through the Chapter Librarians. Okley then gave a brief walk through type demo on getting on the graphics board.

Since Spring Break begins on March 18th, and several members would be unable to attend the regular third Saturday meeting, the HEB Chapter meeting for March has been move to the SECOND Saturday, March 12th, at 1:30 pm. The meeting will be held in the large room with the glass doors just off the main lobby. After a short business meeting, there will be a brief demonstration of the use of the Library Catalog disk by Cheryl Howard and a on-line modem demonstration accessing several local BBS systems by Earl Drake and Okley Moss. The demonstration will also cover different types of modems and procedures for accessing our bulletin

boards and STARTEXT.

Immediately following the regular chapter meeting, there will be tables around the perimeter with a GEOS set-up and BASIC Programming instruction. The Beginning BASIC Programming instruction originally scheduled for the February meeting will be held at this time. This instructional session is being held by past president Jesse Carden and you will need to bring you own equipment or get with a friend and share equipment.

This is a hands on type of instruction and having your equipment is necessary for you to get full benefit. Like all chapter meetings, we want to encourage all club members to join us and participate.

ARLINGTON CHAPTER

Janet Hamm

The Arlington Chapter met Tuesday, February 16th. Herschell Gibbs, Jr., Vice President, presided in the absence of newly elected President, Glen Herring, who was recovering from minor surgery. Thank you to Don Stevens, of the Ft. Worth Night Chapter, and Wilber Dexter, of Arlington, for working in the librarian's position in the absence of our Librarian, Robert Sessions. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Robert and his family at the loss of their daughter, Betty Jenine.

Herschell welcomed three new members and announced that the new 1987 Income Tax Program had been purchased and added to our library for the use of all

MCCC members.

Bob Krause, President of the Ft. Worth Day Chapter, demonstrated a very interesting and entertaining game entitled "Where in the World is Carmen San Dieg?" We all became enthusiastic detectives as "sleuth" Bob led us in an adventure to track down and comprehend the right thief. It was a fun evening.

Harold Williams, MCCC President, will present the program for March on the Library ARC Utilities (uploads and downloads), which will assist us in understanding and utilizing the bulletin boards. The March meeting will be on the 15th at 6:30 pm at the Arlington Community Center - Matlock Road, one mile north of I-20. We'd love to have members from other chapters visit us too. Let's all try to bring a friend or neighbor.

FT. WORTH DAY CHAPTER
Mary Louise Hagemeyer

At our February meeting, Harold Williams demonstrated the LIB and ARC programs for use with BBS files and other archives. He also showed us the "Math Flash" program he wrote as a way of making math drills more entertaining.

At our next meeting, James Dunnam will review the 1987 Tax Survival Kit, which is a new acquisition in the club library. We will also have a Twenty Questions session, so bring your computer problems and ask for the solutions.

The meeting will be Saturday, March 12, 1:30 p.m., in Room 1 of General

Dynamics Recreation Area on
Bryant-Irvin Road.

FT. WORTH NIGHT CHAPTER
Clay Sutton

We want to thank Bruce Umbreit for his informative and interesting demonstration of printers.

Our March meeting will feature a round table discussion on software and some software peripherals. Our meeting will be the 21st, the third Monday, at 7:00 pm at Saint Elisabeth's Episcopal Church.

AMIGA Central Chapter
Tim Flynn

February's meeting was a very interesting one featuring a four-part presentation by a representative from Hai-Tex, a software company.

The first program demonstrated was a spreadsheet by Hai-Tex called Hai-Calc. Next was an incredible CAD program from Taurus which is being marketed by Hai-Tex. It is called X-CAD and was designed to compete with the popular Auto-CAD, and would seem to be a hands-down winner with an unofficial line update 60 times faster than the IBM compatible program. Third was A-Drum, a drum machine which can play any sound fed into it. Last, but certainly not least, was a 3D animation program which turned out to be a sneak preview for chapter members since it is not due out on the market for another few months. The 3D effect was achieved

AMIGA CENTRAL Cont.

with a pair of LCD glasses which plug in to the Amiga.

Another visitor at this meeting was the owner of a new Amiga store in Carrollton named Amazing Computing Systems. (ring a bell anyone?) The Grand Opening was Wednesday, February 24, and discounts have been offered to Club members. The aim of this store is to be the largest Amiga supplier in this country, offering huge selections and mail-order prices. Welcome to the Metroplex and we wish you luck! (Ed. Note: See Ad p. 11)

Chapter business included the changing of our name to the Amiga Central Chapter since we are no longer the only one for the Amiga. We look forward to this addition to our ranks as an opportunity to double the information we contribute to the Amiga community.

Our thanks, as usual, to Software Terminal for their donation of an Amiga product for our door prize, and also thanks this month to Hai-Tex for giving us two of their Hai-Calc programs which went for extra door prizes.

Coming Up:

Plans for the March meeting include a presentation of a Tax program listed on a recent Club library disk, and a demonstration of the 68020 board made by CSA.

Have a good time computing and we'll see you at the next meeting.

AMIGA BY THE LOOP

Brent Wood

Yes, that's the name of the newest MCCC chapter of AMIGA enthusiasts currently meeting in North Richland Hills. Voting at the last meeting included the election of the following officers:

President -	Rick Schulz
Vice President -	Jody Reimers
Treasurer -	Bruce Nelson
Librarian -	Gary Campbell
Secreatary/Reporter -	Brent Wood

If you missed the last meeting, you missed Bill Raecke's presentation of a plaque to Barbara Cramer in appreciation of 4 years of service as newsletter editor. Thanks for all the hard work, Barbara! And thanks to Kerry Batts (with an assist from Jody) for an excellent and entertaining MIDI demo. It looks like music on the AMIGA is well supported by club members, judging by the crowd drawn to the front after the demonstration.

The next meeting will be March 8th at the North Richland Hills Community Center, southeast corner of Rufe Snow and Loop 820, at 7:30pm. The program will feature a Maxi-Plan demo and will give me a little ammunition to use on the wife when she tells me to stop playing games. "Look honey, the budget!"

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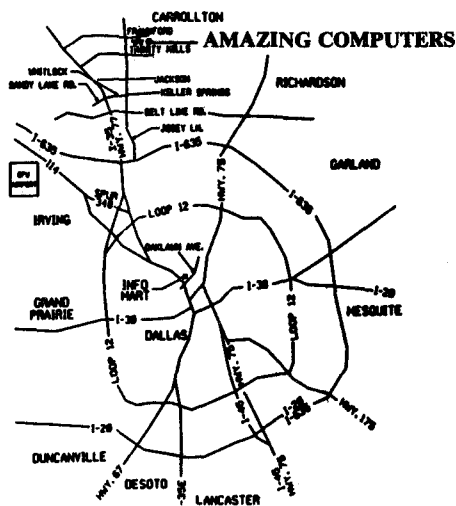
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES

John Malmstrom, Secretary

The Board of Directors held their regular meeting at Western Hills Inn in Euless on February 6, 1988.

President Harold Williams opened the meeting by welcoming all members present and pointed out that any member of the club is welcome to attend any board meeting. The voting members of the board consist of the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, librarian, newsletter editor, educational training coordinator, BBS coordinator, and chapter representatives (chapter president or designee and additional representatives based on chapter size). Harold then presented a brief review of some of the major issues that will be facing the club in the coming year.

John Malmstrom reported that as of this date, MCCC has 224 paid members, 105 of whom have also elected to join the club BBS. The breakdown by chapters is as follows:

Amiga -----	106
Arlington -----	30
Fort Worth Day -----	20
Fort Worth Night -----	16
Grand Prairie -----	6
Hurst-Euless-Bedford -----	46

Membership rosters and copies of the constitution were distributed to all chapter presidents.

Bill Raecke presented a proposed budget for the rest of the year. It provides for operating expenses only and does not

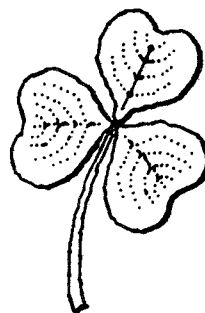
include any proposals for purchase of major equipment.

Jack DeTore outlined tentative plans for upcoming club special events as follows:

1. We may have the opportunity to participate with SCOPE in a special four-state regional meeting at InfoMart on April 16.
2. A special MCCC family event will be held sometime this summer.
3. Plans for the 2nd Annual Metroplex Computer Conference are being made. Tentative space has been reserved at the Arlington Convention Center for October 8.
4. And don't forget the Annual MCCC Christmas Extravaganza!

The board discussed but took no action on ways to improve the chapter structure to better serve the membership.

The board received and approved a petition from a group desiring to form a second Amiga chapter.



March

1988

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

		1	2	3	4	5 Director's Western Hills Inn Euless Texas 10 AM 1st Saturday Harold Williams 483-0537
6	7	8 Amiga Loop N.R.H. Rec Cent N. Richland Hills 7:30 PM 2nd Tuesday Rick Schulz 281-3996	9	10	11	12 ** H.E.B. ** Fort Worth Day Grand Prairie 1:30 PM Read details in MCCC NEWS Or call President
13	14	15 Arlington Chap. Community Cent. Arlington Texas 6:30 PM 3rd Tuesday Glen Herring 572-0489	16 Kiss a Greenie on the 17th	17 Amiga Central Community Cent. Arlington Texas 7:30 PM 3rd Thursday Bill Raecke 465-2014	18	19 MCCC NEWS DEADLINE SO GET WITH IT!
20	21 Fort Worth Night St. Elisabeth Epis. Church Fort Worth Texas 7:00 PM. 3rd MON Bill Jones 295-8637	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Welcome Spring !!

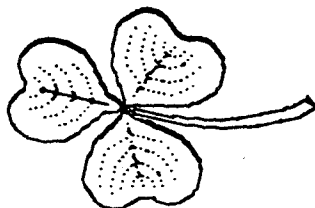
(and Spring Break)

CLUB INFORMATION

THE MID-CITIES COMMODORE CLUB IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEVOTED TO THE COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF COMPUTER KNOWLEDGE, TO THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF COMPUTER EDUCATION AND TO THE USE OF COMMODORE COMPUTERS IN THE HOME, AT SCHOOL, AND IN BUSINESS. THE APPROPRIATE AND LEGAL USE OF ALL TYPES OF SOFTWARE IS ENCOURAGED BY THIS CLUB.

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